

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00184 161113Z

42

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAL-01 CG-00 OFA-01

DLOS-04 SS-15 NSC-05 /064 W
----- 028715

R 160830Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0105

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL PORT SAID BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALEXANDRIA 0184

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT

SUBJECT: MINOR COLLISION IN ALEXANDRIA HARBOR

1. AT 0200 HOURS MARCH 13, 1976 U.S. MERCHANT SHIP SS NANCY LYKES, ANCHORED IN ALEXANDRIA HARBOR, STARTED TO DRAG ITS ANCHOR DUE TO GALE FORCE WESTERLY WINDS THAT HAD COME UP DURING THE NIGHT. SHIP DRAGGED ABOUT 1000 YARDS FINALLY ENDING UP AT 0220 HOURS AGAINST TWO SOVIET NAVY SHIPS MOORED AT THE WESTERN END OF ALEXANDRIA SHIPYARD. SOVIET VESSELS IN QUESTION, A BARRACKS CRAFT AND A LARGE COVERED BARGE, APPEAR TO HAVE RECEIVED VIRTUALLY NO DAMAGE OTHER THAN SCRAPED PAINT ON BOWS (SOVIET SHIPS ARE MEDITERRANEAN MOORED, STERNS TO PIER). NANCY LYKES HAD ITS GANGWAY SEVERELY DAMAGED AND RAILING SLIGHTLY BENT. VO IS BEING SURVEYED BY LLOYDS AND LOCAL SURVEYOR, ARAB EXPERTS BUREAU. THUS FAR, SOVIETS HAVE GIVEN NO INDICATION OF WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, THEY PLAN TO TAKE.

2. CAPTAIN OF NANCY LYKES TOLD CONGEN SHIPPING OFFICER THAT HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO SHIP'S BRIDGE BY THE WATCH OFFICER WHEN SHIP STARTED TO DRAG. HE WAS ABLE TO GET SHIP UNDERWAY, BUT NOT BEFORE IT HAD MADE CONTACT WITH SOVIET VESSELS. HE HAD REQUESTED URGENT ASSISTANCE FROM PORT AUTHORITIES BY RADIO;
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PAGE 02 ALEXAN 00184 161113Z

THEY HAD ACKNOWLEDGED HIS REQUEST, BUT NEVER SENT TUG TO ASSIST

IN THE EMERGENCY. CAPTAIN COMPLAINED ABOUT CROWDED ANCHORAGE WHICH HE, AND OTHER AMERICAN CAPTAINS, CONSIDER EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS. INTER ALIA, THEY CAN PUT OUT ONLY A LIMITED AMOUNT OF ANCHOR CHAIN FOR FEAR OF SWINGING INTO OTHER SHIPS. NEVERTHELESS, CAPTAIN OF THE NANCY LYKES ADMITTED HE WAS AT FAULT IN THE COLLISION. HE SAID THAT ON ADVICE OF EGYPTIAN PILOT, HE HAD PUT OUT ONLY ONE ANCHOR WHEN ARRIVING IN HARBOR, AS HE WAS TOLD HE SOON WOULD BE MOVED TO A QUAY. HE HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE HEAVY WIND DURING THE NIGHT.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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